

CDF NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



**CONTACT: Karen Terrill
Information Officer
(916) 653-5123**

**RELEASE
DATE: October 18, 2002**

Halloween Fire/Safety Tips

Sacramento- Fire danger still exists even as wildfire season comes to an end. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) and State Fire Marshal John Tennant remind everyone that every year too many people, usually children, are injured by fire on Halloween.

Helpful tips for a safe Halloween:

Tips for choosing the right costume:

- Purchase costumes made of flame retardant material.
- Keep hemlines short enough to prevent tripping and avoid loose, baggy sleeves, or billowing skirts.
- To be seen easily, costumes should be made of a light color material. Also, use glow in the dark reflective tape on the costume.
- Use make-up rather than masks which could obstruct vision.

Tips for Halloween night:

- Use battery powered lights – never candles – to light Jack-O-Lanterns.
- Instruct children to stay away from open flames.
- Remove objects from the yard that present a hazard to children (garden tools, hoses, etc.).
- Be extremely careful with cornstalks and other harvest-season items. Keep them away from sources of heat. Don't let them block doorways or stairs.
- Do not allow children to carry sharp sticks or other objects that could cause injury.
- If you are driving on Halloween, take care...watch out for trick-or-treaters who will be too busy to watch out for you.
- Closely inspect all candy before allowing children to eat it. Discard any unwrapped treats from a stranger. If in doubt, throw it out.

The CDF and State Fire Marshal wish everyone a happy and safe Halloween.

